

Message Text

SECRET

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T SECTO 29010

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

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SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOR MIN ALLON

1. SECRETARY HAD HOUR AND A HALF BREAKFAST WEDNESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 6 WITH FON. MON. YIGAL ALLON IN SECRETARY'S SUITE IN NEW YORK. WITH ALLON WERE DINITZ, EVRON AND BAR-ON AND BENTSUR FROM EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WITH SECRETARY WERE ATHERTON, DAY, AND RODMAN. DISCUSSION WAS TOUR D'HORIZON AND TOUCHED ON LEBANON. MAIN SUBJECTS WERE AMOCO DISPUTE AND SOVIET NOTE ON GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. LEBANON. SECRETARY ASKED ALLON'S ASSESSMENT OF LEBANON SITUATION. ALLON SAID SYRIANS HAD CLEANED OUT LEFTIST-PLO STRONGHOLDS IN THE MOUNTAINS BUT CHRISTIANS WONDERED WHETHER SYRIANS WOULD RETAIN THE TERRITORY OR TURN IT OVER TO CHRISTIAN TROOPS. SECRETARY THOUGHT ISRAEL AND U.S. HAD HANDLED LEBANON WELL. SOVIETS WERE COMPLAINING THAT U.S. WASN'T DOING ENOUGH IN LEBANON.

3. AMOCO. SECRETARY RAISED AMOCO AND SAID U.S. COULD NOT REPEAT NOT ACCEPT ISRAELI LEGAL POSITION THAT OCCUPIER COULD CLAIM RIGHT TO MEDIAN LINE, WHICH WAS AN ATTRIBUTE OF SOVEREIGNTY. ALLON SAID ISRAEL NOW CONTROLLED AREA AND DID NOT WANT TO YIELD WITHOUT QUID PRO QUO. THIS WAS EGYPTIAN TACTIC TO USE U.S. COMPANY TO PUT PRESSURE ON USG TO EXTRACT FROM ISRAEL CONCESSION WITH-

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OUT RECIPROCITY.

4. SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT (A) AMOCO BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED AT SITE 304.1; (B) OTHER SITES BE DEFERRED DURING THIS DRILLING PROCESS -- ABOUT SIX MONTHS; (C) U.S. WOULD MEANWHILE ENDEAVOR TO WORK OUT AN AGREED BASIS (INCLUDING EGYPT) FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT DRILLING ON ISRAELI SIDE OF LINE; (D) U.S. WOULD URGE RESTRAINT ON EGYPTIANS. ADVANTAGE OF THIS APPROACH WAS THAT AMOCO WOULD HAVE TO SPEND SIX MONTHS ON 304.1 BEFORE EVEN CONTEMPLATING ANOTHER SITE, AND WE COULD AVOID AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN CRISIS JUST AS NEXT PHASE OF PEACE PROCESS WAS BEGINNING. ALLON SEEMED INCLINED TOWARD THIS APPROACH BUT DID NOT GIVE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. WE HOPE TO HAVE CONSIDERED ISRAELI ANSWER WHEN SECRETARY AND ALLON MEET OCTOBER 11 IN WASHINGTON.

5. SOVIET NOTE. ALLON SAID GOI PLANNED TO REPLY NEXT WEEK TO SOVIET "CIRCULAR" MESSAGE VIA JUNIOR PERSONNEL AT UN MISSION. GOI WOULD POINT OUT DEFECTS OF SOVIET PROPOSAL, I.E., FAILURE TO CALL FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT, SPECIFYING OF OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATION, AND ROLE OF PLO.

6. THE SECRETARY RECOMMENDED AGAINST A FORMAL ANSWER. THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH NEW IN IT TO WARRANT TREATING IT AS A SERIOUS PROPOSAL. ALLON SAID ISRAELI PUBLIC WOULD WANT TO KNOW GOI'S ANSWER. SECRETARY SAID USG WOULD SIMPLY SAY IT WAS STUDYING IT. SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH PROPOSAL ON GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS A SUFFICIENT REPLY. WE HAD MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR TO THE ARABS.

7. THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED THEY DISCUSS IT FURTHER IN WASHINGTON.
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